

when he was redrawn out of this House through redistricting. He stood on the floor of the House and he said, "Like a phoenix, the Negro will rise."

General Chappie James during World War II showed himself to be a proud American, fighting against the forces of evil. The Tuskegee Airmen, which we honored just a few weeks ago. So many.

Then, of course, we bring ourselves to the civil rights movement. And who does not know the name of Rosa Parks, someone who was willing to sit down and be counted against, again, the evil of segregation. We know the names of those like Martin Luther King, but do we know Josea Williams and Andrew Young? These are great icons.

And of course we know that so many of them brought us to the point where we could stand on this floor, Dorothy Height, who is with us today, her great leadership, and C. Dolores Tucker, both women who were pioneers and willing to take a chance.

Might I share, Mr. Speaker, some of the local heroes of Houston, Texas.

Jack Yates, who founded the Bethel Baptist Church, which suffered an enormous fire just a few weeks ago. How grateful I am that that community has come together and has stood together to say that history is important, not just for African Americans or Houstonians, but for all of us.

F. M. Williams. His father had a school named for him, M. C. Williams. We thank him for the spiritual leadership and being able to be concerned about education.

Christie Adair, Moses Leroy, Zollie Scales are all great heroes in our community who passed on, but Beulah Shepard, who remains in her early eighties, is someone who believed that just one single vote could make a difference, and went throughout the community registering people to vote and empowering them. She was a political leader. Unelected, but yet a leader in our community.

So many stand as heroes. Esther Williams. She was one of the early precinct judges and a dear friend. She was always in the political organizational aspect of our leadership, and she did it to open the doors for others.

Our first judges, like Henry Doyle; and certainly some of our attorneys, like attorney Plummer and attorney Whitcliff; or our early doctors, like John B. Coleman. So many. Dr. E. A. Lord and many others who have preceded the Perrys, Dr. and Mrs. Perry.

So I list these names not because they asked to be listed, but because this month is extremely important in recognizing the fulness of America and the diversity of America and our willingness to acknowledge them by this month. Let us always be reminded that our brilliance, our greatness is because we can stand under one flag, differently but yet united.

I go to my seat, Mr. Speaker, challenging the City of Houston and our school district, the Houston Inde-

pendent School District, to cherish that history and ask and plead with them not to close Jack Yates High School, Kashmir High School, and Sam Houston High School because our history is so important.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, February is designated as Black History Month, and I want to take this opportunity to utilize this very practical observance, or practical designation.

The observances have very practical values. Some people have said they are useless and also they are insulting because our history goes on all the time. Why do we need to single it out for just one month? And if they are important, why only have one month?

Well, the way Americans do things, part of our culture and part of our way of life is we do highlight things, days of observances, holidays, special ceremonies, all these things are part of the way we capture people's attention.

□ 1430

I am grateful for the fact that the whole month of February is designated as Black History Month. There was a time when there was no such designation, and there was a gentleman named Carter G. Woodson who resided here in Washington D.C. who worked for years to get a Black History Week designation.

The purpose for his Black History Week designation was a practical one. He wanted an opportunity to be able to highlight some of the achievements of African Americans over the years. So the fact now that television stations and corporations and various other people have pitched in and they pay homage to Black History Month is an achievement to be saluted. I congratulate the people who worked to have that done. It is for us, both black and white, to understand ways in which we can take advantage of the fact that this observance exists. You cannot separate American history from black history or black history from American history. The history of African Americans certainly is interwoven with the history of the United States of America in a way which can never be separated.

I would like to see us deal with black history as a continuum. The fact that people in small groups or individuals made contributions should not be played down. We are proud of the fact that you have a whole series of individual achievements that were highlighted when you start celebrating. We know that Thomas Edison had a black assistant who played a great role in what he did. Alexander Graham Bell. The inventor of the traffic light was a

black man. Crispus Attucks was one of the first people to fall in the Boston Massacre. Crispus Attucks was a black man. There are a whole bevy of achievements that are saluted.

We often bring up the Tuskegee Airmen and how it took black groups highlighting the achievements of the Tuskegee Airmen in World War II before they were recognized nationally by the entire American public. They did not fly in a segregated war. They were escorts for bombers flying to Germany in World War II. They played a major role and should have been recognized right away, but that was not the case.

So the separate recognition and the efforts made by people to highlight their group achievements have been very important. Dorey Miller, who was one lone individual, needs to be celebrated and highlighted and maybe we will one day get an appropriate Congressional Medal of Honor for Dorey Miller. Dorey Miller happened to be a black man who was in the Navy, on one of the ships that was attacked on the day of the Pearl Harbor raid. Dorey Miller was a cook. He was not allowed to handle the guns at all. He had never been trained as a gunner and generally was forced to stay away from any kind of combat training. But on the day of Pearl Harbor, Dorey Miller shot down two Japanese planes standing on the deck of the Arizona. I think it was, with courage and skill fought back and deserves to be recognized. And on and on it goes in terms of highlighting individuals.

I think as we highlight individuals, we also should understand that the social and political and economic history is much more complicated and has to be part of what we discuss as we observe Black History Month in February. I would like to call the attention of the Members to the fact that the Public Broadcasting System, which is under attack right now for various reasons, from the left and the right, is not given the kind of acclaim they deserve for producing magnificent programs. The quality of their programming is really outstanding.

They did a series on slavery. That series ended last night. I saw the last part of it. It is a magnificent series that introduces a number of basic facts that most people have never known and others have forgotten. It also highlights the passion and the fervor of the struggle, the struggle on both sides, the struggle of the African slaves to get free in this country and the struggle and fervor of the people on the other side who wanted them very much to never be free because they were property earning great profits. The magnitude of those profits earned by slave labor was discussed at great length.

Everybody in this country needs to understand the role of slave labor in the building of the wealth of America. They need to understand it was not just the South but New York City was one of the biggest, it was the second or

third largest port where slaves came into the country. They need to understand that although cotton was king and very profitable, it was profitable not only for the people who grew the cotton in the South but the mills in New England and in the North that made textiles also profited greatly from the slave labor that produced the cotton that they made into textiles. That piece of economic history is very important to understand and comprehend.

People dismiss and consider it an insult when certain groups of African Americans say that we do reparations. Reparations is not a silly idea. Reparations ought to be considered because of the fact that so much slave labor, free labor, labor taken with no compensation, went into the building of this Nation, that there ought to be some consideration in some way. I will not go into any great detail at this point, but this Capitol was built by slaves. This Capitol was built by slaves. Only recently have they discovered documents which certainly make it quite clear that slave labor built the Capitol. They have the actual records of how they contracted with the masters of the slaves and paid them, I think, \$5 a week or something for their slaves to work. You can document it if you are interested in seeing it in greater detail and if you doubt that that is the truth, but the Capitol was built by slave labor and much of Washington and much of the east coast, I assure you, in the early days, before the Civil War, was built with slave labor as well.

We have an African-American museum that is about to be undertaken here in Washington with the support of our government. It is going to be a museum which brings all this together. We have achieved, finally, the American Indian museum on the Mall that opened, I think, last year. That American Indian museum pays proper homage to the original Americans who were here when the explorers from Europe came. I think that is very important. But proper homage has not been paid to the Africans who helped to build this Nation, who were not here when the Europeans came, who did not come voluntarily as immigrants, but who came here kidnapped and in chains, but nevertheless their labor helped to build America.

That African-American museum is going to be a part of the Smithsonian Institute. That African-American museum will be partially financed by the Federal Government and partially financed by private funds, I think like the museum of the Holocaust, partially paid for with private funds and some government funds.

The African-American museum is a great opportunity to accomplish what I was talking about before in terms of the continuum, showing in a continuation the economic, social, and political development of black life in America and what the impact of African-American labor and participation was here in America.

It is going to be on the Mall, I am told by my colleague, the great John Lewis, John Lewis, who has participated in the making of a great deal of African-American history. John participated the hard way. He was a hero in the civil rights struggle. If you want to go back and watch the films, you can see John on the Edmund Pettis Bridge getting beaten up. You can see John in some film of the freedom rides where they were trying to integrate the Greyhound buses, interstate buses. You can see them beating John Lewis. So John Lewis was definitely a part of history. It is altogether fitting and proper that John Lewis has played a major role as we prepare for this museum to be developed and opened on the Mall here. John tells me that it is going to be on the Mall. There was some question about whether it would be located on the Mall or somewhere else. There were people who said the Mall is crowded now and there is no more room for another museum. There were people who felt that there were other locations in Washington where you should put the African-American museum; but I am so proud of the fact that John reports, and I salute President Bush, John reports that President Bush says he wants the museum on the Mall. He will support the building of the African-American museum on the Mall.

We will have collected there the whole range of activities that go into the making of the history of a people. I am certain that a lot of things that have been lost will now be found. The records of the early Members of Congress after the Civil War who were black, one has to search very diligently to find out who was here, what kinds of speeches they made and what the situation was and the whole drama that was played out as they removed the more than 30 African-Americans who came to Congress and the Senate shortly after the Civil War. That whole drama is a story that needs to be told as there are many other stories that need to be told.

The story needs to be told of what it meant for the early colonists to have all that slave labor that was available through the slaves in terms of overcoming the wilderness that was quite unfriendly and the wilderness that had in many cases defeated the gentlemen who came from Great Britain who were not prepared to do the kind of hard work that had to be done to sustain a nation in the wilderness.

The story has to be told of how in the French and Indian wars, the blacks fought side by side with George Washington and the Americans against the French, and the Revolutionary War where blacks divided. Some wanted freedom, they were promised freedom by the English and they fought on the side of the English; and many more fought on the side of the American patriots. George Washington had a major assistant who was black, who has gotten lost in history out there and would be retrieved.

The whole history of how in New York City, the building of that city and the movement of the black population from one place to another would be retrieved in this African-American museum. Central Park was a major location of an African-American settlement. That settlement was unceremoniously bulldozed and removed later on. That story needs to be told.

The story of the Negro burial ground in lower Manhattan which recently received a memorial. A memorial was built there because we have a Federal building that was being built on that ground over the Negro burial ground, and the excavation process brought up skeletons and indicated it was a ceremony and there was a protest. This is a 10-year project that went on. Finally, the settlement was that they built a memorial right there at the Federal building and they reinterred the bones of those who had been dug up. I was at that ceremony, recognizing the tremendous cost that was sustained by the African-American community at that time.

Facts came to light as to terms of the volume, the large numbers of people who were worked to death. They even took some of the bones to various institutions and analyzed the bones and the trauma that had been experienced by the bones and found out that necks were broken because of the load that they had to carry, that spines were cracked and the horror of slave labor you get from that Negro burial ground memorial in New York.

That is one of many black history exhibitions and museums and libraries across the country. They all make a small contribution. The wonderful thing about having an African American museum on the Mall is that it says to all of America, it says to the whole world, that we are prepared to recognize fully the involvement, the contributions and the role played by African Americans in the history of the United States of America. Across the country we have a lot of small museums that deserve to be examined. As you travel from one place to another, you can find in many places various museums and cultural centers.

□ 1445

In Richmond, Virginia there is the Black Museum and Cultural Center. Out in Idaho there is the Black History Museum. Right here in Washington, of course, we have the Anacostia Museum; and the Museum of African American History in Boston; New York Institute for Special Education in the Bronx, a small recent one; the Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History in Augusta, Georgia; Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History in Detroit, Michigan.

I am not going to read them all, but just to give some example of how there is a body out there, maybe too few.

Rosa Parks Library & Museum in Montgomery, Alabama. I think the

Rosa Parks Museum in Montgomery, Alabama is located in the same corner where she refused to go to the back of the bus. That is very symbolic. And the great National Civil Rights Museum in Memphis is one of the most dramatic of the museums. Memphis, Tennessee was where Martin Luther King was assassinated. He was assassinated at the Lorraine Motel, and that is the site of the museum. The Lorraine Motel has been converted into a civil rights museum.

The University of Colorado Department of History has a museum; the African American Museum in Dallas, Texas; the Howard A. Mims African American Cultural Center in Cleveland; the African American Culture Links throughout the country now on the Internet. Of course in New York City we have the great Shimberg Library, which is probably the definitive collection of books and materials about African Americans, not just African Americans but Africans from time and memorial.

So we would like to take this opportunity in February, when we have the observance and the attention is focused, to remind people that they can go find out quite a bit about black history in these places. The Public Broadcasting System's documentary which I referred to before, that is available. People can get the documentary itself, and it would be, I assure my colleagues, worthwhile to have a copy of that documentary which does a very dramatic and human presentation of slavery in America.

There are a lot of different Black History Month events that are going on right now. Just to give a few examples, the Slave Life of Mount Vernon is being performed at the Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens in Mount Vernon here, not far away. The College of Notre Dame of Maryland is doing a Soul Bake Sale. The Writing on the Wall is an exploration of the recent renaissance of graffiti art as a form of social critique. It goes back to Africa, at the Community College of Baltimore. There is a Black History Month Film Series at the Walters Art Museum, et cetera. Many other events are taking place this month from here. Up to February 17, today, there have been many others.

Mr. Speaker, I will submit for the RECORD two items: the Black History Month events in the metropolitan area, a listing of those events; and the Black History and Culture libraries and museums listing across the Nation.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH EVENTS IN METRO AREA

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 17

How Old Is A Hero

This musical production is a tribute to children of the Civil Rights era., Where: Carl J. Murphy Fine Arts Center., Time: 4 p.m.

Slave Life at Mount Vernon

In observance of Black History Month, interpreters stationed at the Slave Quarters in Mount Vernon highlight the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Mar-

tha Washington., Where: Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens., Time: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

Soul Food Bake Sale

Feed your soul with goodies like home-made rice pudding, sweet potato pie, pound-cake, chocolate cake and more., Where: College of Notre Dame of Maryland., Time: 11 a.m.-2 p.m.

Soul Food Cooking Class

Learn how to prepare healthful soul food at the store known for healthy food., Where: Whole Foods Market., Time: 7:30 p.m.

The Writing on the Wall

Explore the recent renaissance of graffiti art as a form of social critique in this art exhibit by Aniekam Udofia., Where: Community College of Baltimore County, Essex Campus., Time: 11:30 p.m.-1:30 a.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 18

Black History Month Film Series

This film series, "Exploring African American Women Through Film," includes "Lift" and "Chisholm '72—Unbought and Unbossed.", Where: The Walters Art Museum., Time: 7:30 p.m.

Slave Life at Mount Vernon

In observance of Black History Month, interpreters stationed at the Slave Quarters in Mount Vernon highlight the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington., Where: Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens., Time: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 19

African-American History at the Walters Art Museum

Celebrate Black History Month with an array of African-American art forms., Where: The Walters Art Museum., Time: 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

How Old Is A Hero

This musical production is a tribute to children of the Civil Rights era., Where: Carl J. Murphy Fine Arts Center., Time: 1 p.m.

Saturday Film Series

Explore the triumphs and struggles of African-Americans throughout history., Where: Banneker-Douglass Museum., Time: 12:30 p.m.

Slave Life at Mount Vernon

In observance of Black History Month, interpreters stationed at the Slave Quarters in Mount Vernon highlight the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington., Where: Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens., Time: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20

Slave Life at Mount Vernon

In observance of Black History Month, interpreters stationed at the Slave Quarters in Mount Vernon highlight the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington., Where: Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens., Time: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

DJ Workshop Featuring Ron Brown

Washington hip-hop legend Ron Brown leads an instructional workshop for aspiring and experienced DJs., Where: Community College of Baltimore County, Essex Campus., Time: 11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Slave Life at Mount Vernon

In observance of Black History Month, interpreters stationed at the Slave Quarters in Mount Vernon highlight the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington., Where: Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens., Time: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Come watch the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater perform works from its clas-

sic repertory including Ailey's signature masterpiece exploring African American spirituals., Where: The Kennedy Center., Time: 7 p.m.

Hip-Hop Panel Discussion

A panel of experts discusses Hip-Hop Kujichagalia: Hip-Hop and African American Self-Determination., Where: Community College of Baltimore County, Essex Campus., Time: 12:20 p.m.-1:15 p.m.

Presentation of Sistahs Speak Out: Hip Hop

Sistahs Speak Out performs live hip-hop., Where: Anne Arundel Community College., Time: noon-2 p.m.

Slave Life at Mount Vernon

In observance of Black History Month, interpreters stationed at the Slave Quarters in Mount Vernon highlight the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington., Where: Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens., Time: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 23

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Come watch the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater perform works from its classic repertory including Ailey's signature masterpiece exploring African-American spirituals., Where: The Kennedy Center., Time: 7:30 p.m.

Slave Life at Mount Vernon

In observance of Black History Month, interpreters stationed at the Slave Quarters in Mount Vernon highlight the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington., Where: Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens., Time: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 24

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Come watch the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater perform works from its classic repertory including Ailey's signature masterpiece exploring African-American spirituals., Where: The Kennedy Center., Time: 7:30 p.m.

Slave Life at Mount Vernon

In observance of Black History Month, interpreters stationed at the Slave Quarters in Mount Vernon highlight the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington., Where: Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens., Time: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 25

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Come watch the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater perform works from its classic repertory including Ailey's signature masterpiece exploring African-American spirituals., Where: The Kennedy Center., Time: 7:30 p.m.

Black History at the Aquarium

Spend the evening at the aquarium and see a presentation of black watermen and a mini-lecture with David T. Terry., Where: National Aquarium in Baltimore., Time: 5 p.m.-9 p.m.

Black History Month Film Series

This film series, "Exploring African American Women Through Film," includes "Lift" and "Chisholm '72—Unbought and Unbossed.", Where: The Walters Art Museum., Time: 7:30 p.m.

Slave Life at Mount Vernon

In observance of Black History Month, interpreters stationed at the Slave Quarters in Mount Vernon highlight the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington., Where: Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens., Time: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Come watch the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater perform works from its classic repertory including Ailey's signature

masterpiece exploring African-American spirituals., Where: The Kennedy Center. Time: 1:30 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

Cabaret

In celebration of Black History Month, the Theater Company presents a spectacular evening of dinner, entertainment and dancing. Where: Johns Hopkins University. Time: 6:30 p.m.

Illumination: Master Works

In honor of the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday, this display of African American Art is from the collection of Harryette and Otis M. Robertson. Where: Towson University.

Life Opera

Hear a live performance of an original composition that shows how the changes in music have complemented and mirrored the lives of African-Americans. Where: Lexington Market. Time: noon-2 p.m.

Saturday Film Series

Explore the triumphs and struggles of African-Americans throughout history. Where: Banneker-Douglass Museum. Time: 12:30 p.m.

Slave Life at Mount Vernon

In observance of Black History Month, interpreters stationed at the Slave Quarters in Mount Vernon highlight the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington. Where: Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens. Time: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 27

Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater

Come watch the Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater perform works from its classic repertory including Ailey's signature masterpiece exploring African-American spirituals. Where: The Kennedy Center. Time: 1:30 p.m.

Slave Life at Mount Vernon

In observance of Black History Month, interpreters stationed at the Slave Quarters in Mount Vernon highlight the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington. Where: Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens. Time: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 28

Baldwin Over Cocktails

The National James Baldwin Literary Society presents an evening of music and food, featuring readings of Baldwin's work and other performances. Where: Mansion House Seafood Restaurant. Time: 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

James Baldwin Black History Month Celebration

Come have a great night out featuring food, live music and dancing all in support of The National James Baldwin Literary Society in Baltimore. Where: Maryland Zoo in Baltimore. Time: 5:30 p.m.-8:30 p.m.

Slave Life at Mount Vernon

In observance of Black History Month, interpreters stationed at the Slave Quarters in Mount Vernon highlight the lives and contributions of the slaves who built and operated the plantation home of George and Martha Washington. Where: Mount Vernon Estate and Gardens. Time: 9 a.m.-4 p.m.

SATURDAY, MARCH 19

Telling Our Stories . . . Our Way

Authors who speak to the African-American experience through various literary genres will talk to an audience of adults and families. Where: Johns Hopkins University. Time: 9 a.m.-3 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 8

Theatre Morgan presents Raisin, the Musical!

Theatre Morgan's grand finale of the season features the talents of the Morgan State University Fine Arts Department. "Raisin, The Musical" is based on Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun," which won the 1974 Tony Award for best musical. Where: Carl J. Murphy Fine Arts Center. Time: 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9

Theatre Morgan presents Raisin, the Musical!

Theatre Morgan's grand finale of the season features the talents of the Morgan State University Fine Arts Department. "Raisin, The Musical" is based on Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun," which won the 1974 Tony Award for best musical. Where: Carl J. Murphy Fine Arts Center. Time: 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 10

Theatre Morgan presents Raisin, the Musical!

Theatre Morgan's grand finale of the season features the talents of the Morgan State University Fine Arts Department. "Raisin, The Musical" is based on Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun," which won the 1974 Tony Award for best musical. Where: Carl J. Murphy Fine Arts Center. Time: 3 p.m.

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

Theatre Morgan, presents Raisin, the Musical!

Theatre Morgan's grand finale of the season features the talents of the Morgan State University Fine Arts Department. "Raisin, The Musical" is based on Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun," which won the 1974 Tony Award for best musical. Where: Carl J. Murphy Fine Arts Center. Time: 7:30 p.m.

SATURDAY, APRIL 16

Theatre Morgan presents Raisin, the Musical!

Theatre Morgan's grand finale of the season features the talents of the Morgan State University Fine Arts Department. "Raisin, The Musical" is based on Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun," which won the 1974 Tony Award for best musical. Where: Carl J. Murphy Fine Arts Center. Time: 3 p.m., 7:30 p.m.

SUNDAY, APRIL 17

Theatre Morgan presents Raisin, the Musical!

Theatre Morgan's grand finale of the season features the talents of the Morgan State University Fine Arts Department. "Raisin, The Musical" is based on Lorraine Hansberry's "A Raisin in the Sun," which won the 1974 Tony Award for best musical. Where: Carl J. Murphy Fine Arts Center. Time: 3 p.m.

BLACK HISTORY & CULTURE LIBRARIES & MUSEUMS

The Black History Museum and Cultural Center, Richmond, VA, <http://www.blackhistorymuseum.org>.

The Idaho Black History Museum, <http://www.ibhm.org>.

The Anacostia Museum & Center for African American History and Culture, Washington, DC, <http://www.anacostia.si.edu>.

Museum of Afro American History, Boston, MA, <http://www.afroammuseum.org>.

The New York Institute for Special Education, Bronx, NY, <http://www.nyise.org/blackhistory/>.

The Lucy Craft Laney Museum of Black History, Augusta, GA, <http://www.lucycraftlaneymuseum.com/>.

Charles H Wright Museum of African American History, Detroit, MI, <http://www.maah-detroit.org/>.

Museum of Afro American History, Boston, MA, <http://www.afroammuseum.org/>.

DuSable Museum of African American History, Chicago, IL, <http://www.dusablemuseum.org/home.asp>.

Reginald F. Lewis Museum of Maryland African American History & Culture, Baltimore, MD, http://www.africanamericanculture.org/museum_reglewis.html.

African American Historical Museum & Cultural Center of Iowa, Cedar Rapids, IA, <http://www.blackiowa.org/>.

Rosa Parks Library & Museum, Montgomery, AL, <http://www.tsum.edu/museum/>.

National Civil Rights Museum, Memphis, TN, <http://www.civilrightsmuseum.org/>.

University of Colorado Department of History, Colorado Springs, CO, <http://web.uccs.edu/history/ushistory/afroam.htm>.

The African American Museum, Dallas, TX, <http://www.aamdallas.org>.

The Howard A. Mims African American Cultural Center, Cleveland, OH, <http://www.csuohio.edu/blackstudies/afam.html>.

African American Culture Links, <http://cobalt.lang.osaka-u.ac.jp/~krkvl/afrocul.html>.

Mr. Speaker, this is 60 minutes dedicated to the observance of black history, taken by the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to any Member of the Congressional Black Caucus who wants to speak on this Special Order of the black history observance.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OWENS. I yield to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me, and I thank him for his leadership in coming forward during this whole month of February when the whole Nation is invited to think about the history of African Americans and about their present effort to obtain first-class citizenship.

I was just at the White House, perhaps last week, it was when the President had a commemoration built around the new African American Museum, approved by the House and the Senate, something that African Americans have been trying to get ever since Civil War soldiers in Washington, D.C. asked for a museum. I want to just say how much I appreciate that the House and the Senate now have agreed that the Congress will pay for 50 percent, and we will raise money, we in the public, Americans of every background, for this museum here in the District of Columbia to commemorate the history, the very long history, a history as long as the history of the Nation itself, of African Americans in our country who were central to building the Nation as we know it, were critical to building its great economic might, and have been late because of the tragic history of our country in claiming the benefits and the rewards that most Americans are used to obtaining within a generation or two of coming to this country.

To the gentleman from New York, from Brooklyn in particular, a very distinguished member of a number of committees, the Committee on Government Reform, on which I serve; and especially the Committee on Education and the Workforce, in which his long service has helped in many benefits in education that are remarkably important not only to African Americans but to our country, I say to him that I recognize that we began with a theme about the Niagara Movement.

Some may wonder about the Niagara Movement, which in a real sense started the 20th century movement for equal rights, the forerunner of the NAACP. A number of Washingtonians

were at that first call. I just celebrated the life of one of them, Mary Church Terrell, a woman who in her eighties was picketing out in front of public accommodations, yes, here in the Nation's Capital, a southern city which was as segregated as any part of the South, picketing to open ordinary accommodations. This woman was the first member of any Board of Education in the United States; a very distinguished history, and one of only two women who put out the call for African Americans to come from around the country to talk about what they should do as the 20th century dawned to eliminate racism and discrimination in our country.

I want to note the extraordinary two works of Dr. David Levering Lewis, a historian who has won the Pulitzer Prize for his volumes on the life on W.E.B. Du Bois. This is the intellectual father of the civil rights movement, the first black to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University, a man who in many ways was responsible for what remains the intellectual underpinning of black aspiration in America.

This is an extraordinary work. I have just finished Volume 1 and am just beginning Volume 2. He had a very long life, died on the day that the March on Washington gathered here in his late nineties. So no wonder it took two volumes. But it was his remarkable life, a life that in a real sense takes us on a journey of 20th century America for what blacks have encountered and how their effort to obtain equality in our country has proceeded. I recommend it to anyone who is interested not only in serious history but in wonderful writing and in events that in a real sense help us understand a lot of what is happening today. It is extraordinary work, which is why I think it won the Pulitzer Prize in the first place.

The second black to graduate from Harvard with a Ph.D. was one far less well known than W.E.B. Du Bois, whose name is so closely associated with the NAACP. He worked for the NAACP for "The Crisis," their publication, for decades. He was central to its formation.

But less well known is the second black person to graduate from Harvard, Carter G. Woodson. As Dr. Du Bois was the intellectual father of the NAACP and of the Civil Rights Movement, Carter G. Woodson was the man who discovered black history at a time when almost no publisher would even publish works, even serious works like his own, about African American history, and now he is regarded by his peers as one of America's great historians. Carter G. Woodson proceeded right here in the District of Columbia to do his own work in a brownstone located in the historic Shaw area, organizing his own organization, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History, which continues to this day; his own presses.

When I was a youngster going to segregated schools in the District of Columbia, there was a Negro history bul-

letin that came every other week. So he somehow managed to do on-the-ground education of ordinary blacks like us in the schools, and to do some of the most important writing of history, in the professional sense, that has ever been done. He started the whole effort to not rewrite but to write American history.

People have to understand that much of American history as it described African Americans could only be called defamatory. Not only did it not bring out the contributions of African Americans, it defamed African Americans, built in the prejudices and discrimination of the larger society. It took a great intellectual like Carter G. Woodson to begin the process of undoing that.

Now we have Ph.Ds from all the great universities. We see some of them on television telling the story of African American life in the many documentaries, for example, that are being shown.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) mentioned that the Capitol was built by slave labor. I want to reinforce that. The Capitol was built, yes, by slave and free labor, and there were also immigrant labor who contributed to it. But this House and the Senate passed a resolution indicating that we should find some way to take note of the fact that this very place where we now stand, we owe to the labor of free and enslaved blacks. Some of the enslaved blacks were simply brought here to work by their masters. The masters were paid; the slaves were not.

Some, frankly, were runaway slaves. My own great grandfather who came to Washington in the 1850s was a runaway slave. He did not work on the Capitol, but he certainly worked on the streets of D.C., because one could work on the streets. They were building D.C., and they did not ask them who they were unless the master came and found them, and under the Fugitive Slave Law, he could take them back. So that was always a real risk. But working on the Capitol, I am sure those were, as it were, well-documented slaves.

But, Mr. Speaker, until now the legislation which requires a task force to be formed to make sure that this commemoration takes place has not been formed. I know that the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) has sent a letter to the Speaker, simply reminding him of that, because I am sure that that must be an oversight.

But the Visitors Center is about to be completed and the time to take care of this is when we are under construction. If I may express my own opinion, nobody wants, or at least I do not want, a statue of some slave in the Capitol. That is not what we are after. Some kind of tasteful reminder of this place and how it came to be has by statute been mandated, and I simply draw to the attention of both sides of the aisle that we have not done the start-up work to getting the appropriate kind of memorial of some kind built.

I mean, I think of the Vietnam Memorial. Nobody, when they thought there was going to be a Vietnam Memorial, ever envisioned that it would be that wall that now is a virtual place of worship.

□ 1500

It does not have any soldiers on it; it is just a wall with some names on it. In the District of Columbia, we have a Civil War memorial. It is the first memorial to the hundreds of thousands of African Americans who actually served in the Civil War. What it has are a listing of all those names. They served in the Navy and the Army. We got those names by working with Howard University, and there they are.

It is not a wall; it is another kind of an edifice. But it is, by the way, the only one of its kind, the only memorial to African Americans who fought for their own freedom and for one Nation, indivisible, at a time when they were not free, because when you entered the armed services, and talk about some volunteer soldiers, these were real volunteer soldiers, they did not give you your freedom in return. In order to recruit you, they did not say, You serve us, you are free. You were still a slave.

These are men who fought for their country at a time when we were in danger of becoming at least two countries. At the very least, let us begin here in the Capitol by remembering those who were black, some of them not free, who helped build the very place where we meet every week.

Mr. Speaker, I do note that during this African American History Month, Black History Month, we just lost two great Americans, Shirley Chisholm and Ossie Davis. These were one-of-a-kind historic figures; Shirley Chisholm not only because she was first, but she was first in many ways.

She was first in what she was willing to do to break barriers, the first African American woman elected to Congress, the first to run for President of the United States. I was in Florida at her funeral. She will be remembered. Indeed, she will never be forgotten.

She said she did not want to be remembered for being first. Shirley Chisholm understood what was important. She believed that you have to do something in order to be remembered. To many of us, her being the first black woman to come to Congress was doing a whole lot. For her it was not doing a whole lot. But her record in this House is an indication that it was.

But I think we would all do well to remember that before she died she did not even want to be remembered for what she is most likely to be remembered for, and that is being first to have the guts to run for President and being the first to become a Member of the House of Representatives itself.

As a woman, I count myself and the 22 other African American women who have come since as her living legacy. None of us had to encounter what she encountered, which was a House with

nobody in it that looked like her. She deserves to be remembered for what she did for our country, for what she did for African Americans.

I do want to say about Ossie Davis, because I am still, as I was when he was alive, awed by his multiple gifts, it is very hard for me to understand people who have more than one gift. Most of us do not have even one. But here is a man who died nearing 90, therefore who lived through the worst days of segregation, and somehow or the other was able to press himself to bring his gifts out.

Those gifts were across the board. Those gifts were the gift of language, his gift as an actor, his gift as a producer, his gift as a leader of the civil rights movement, his gift in letters and in arts, and his gift as a playwright. Heavens, would that any of us, even those who are just being born black, be able to do in their lives as well even one of those things Ossie Davis will be remembered for.

We remember people in Black History Month precisely because they encourage us to do better, because they did it against far greater odds.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I want to say a word during this shooting war about the role of African Americans in the United States military, because if there is any moment to remember them and if there is any time to remember those who now serve, it is now.

I have just come from a hearing this morning on the treatment of the National Guard and Reserve when it comes to their health care. My congratulations to the chairman of the committee who called the hearing, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform. This is not the first hearing he has had on this matter.

Mr. Speaker, the hearing was called because members of the National Guard and Reserve have complained about being treated as, for lack of a better word, I will call it second-class soldiers. They are not regularly enlisted soldiers. They are soldiers who are citizen soldiers, called forward in numbers we have never seen before. Almost 50 percent of the troops in Iraq are National Guard and Reserve.

When they are injured, they are not treated as enlisted people are treated. They are sent and held at medical hold companies, and these are scandalously underserved companies where they could not get medical treatment. The hearings have helped to focus on this and provide some improvements.

But what made me think of them to today is the history of disproportionate service by African Americans in the armed services of the United States ever since the war that created our country, the Revolutionary War. This urge to serve, often, perhaps most often, as volunteers, it does seem to me we should note during this Black History Month.

Dr. David Lewis in his volume begins to describe African Americans coming

back after World War I. After you fought that kind of war, World War I, you kind of get your gumption, and even though the majority of African Americans lived in the South, we do note that that is when you had the great decade of lynchings, because so many of these African American soldiers came back, particularly to the South in the United States, and assumed that they should act like first-class citizens.

It was perhaps the most shameful decade of our country, and certainly the treatment of these World War I veterans was perhaps the most shameful chapter in American history because of the upsurge of lynchings, many of them men just released from a war that is still very much debated, World War I, where people still try to find out why we were there, why did it happen. It resulted in all the aftermath. Woodrow Wilson tried to make sure, though, that such a war never happened again, and World War II was brought about in part because of the failings of World War I.

I want to note the extraordinary over-representation of blacks in the Reserve and National Guard. Many of them, like so many volunteers in the Army today, are there first to serve their country, and, secondly, because they do not have the same economic rights that my son, that your son and your children have, and service in the volunteer Army is a way to go to college, a way to get a job. Any treatment of them other than first-class treatment in a war like this, a very controversial war, is very much to be criticized until we do much better.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, may I say that among those who are serving in this war are young men and women from the District of Columbia, the same as those who have served our country in every war since the Revolutionary War, and, if I may say so, very specifically in disproportionate numbers. For example, in the Vietnam War the District lost more men than did 10 States, and yet this is a city.

I have gone to a number of funerals; I have gone to Arlington National Cemetery. And just as the first from the District of Columbia served without a vote, so today not only do my constituents serve their country without a vote. They pay taxes, second per capita in the United States, without a vote.

That is bad enough, Mr. Speaker. But on top of that, to go to war without a vote, where your Member cannot vote one way or the other, and yet you volunteer for war, it seems to me that that ought to call to question whether or not the people of the District of Columbia ought to have equal representation in the Congress of the United States.

There is a young man working in my office, his name is Emory Kosh, and he spent a year on the front lines in Iraq. When he came back, somebody told him I was looking for staff assistants. He came and I was pleased to hire him.

I must tell you, I congratulate the armed services and I congratulate his parents, because he has been such an excellent worker.

The armed services has done a great deal for African Americans because it was the best and continues to be the best equal employment opportunity employer in the United States.

But this young man stepped forward just as the Congress opened with two of his buddies from the District of Columbia who had graduated from high school here, and they asked for a meeting with the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) and our leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), simply to ask for the return of the vote in the Committee of the Whole to the District, a vote that I won in the 103rd Congress and which was taken back from me when the Congress changed hands.

They came to say, if I may paraphrase them, it would be a first step toward voting rights, and they came because they were about to see what we saw January 30, with the people of Iraq getting the very voting rights in their parliament that these three young men, who were just back from Iraq, did not have.

So they used the occasion to remind the Congress that they were proud to serve, they would serve again, they were volunteers, but that our country had an obligation to them and their families and that was to allow them the same representation, the same equality in the Congress that interestingly they felt they had in the armed forces of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I draw that to your attention during Black History Month because I want my colleagues to understand that not all of this is history. In the District of Columbia now I am talking about a majority black population, about 60/40 black. But for 150 years the majority here was white. It is because the Congress of the United States has exercised an undemocratic proprietary sense of this city to intervene into its local affairs and to deny the citizens of this city the same rights that you insist upon for your citizens.

Remember that during Black History Month. Remember that black people in the District of Columbia, white people in the District of Columbia, anybody in the District of Columbia, because they live in the capital of their country, the proud capital of their country, are least proud of not having the same rights, particularly when Emory Kosh and other young men and women find themselves this very day in Iraq, Afghanistan, and all over the world serving their country in our name.

It is not history, Mr. Speaker, it is here and now; and we must take action here and now to make it history, to make it yesterday, just as slavery was yesterday, just as Jim Crow in the Nation's Capital was yesterday, just as the segregated schools I went to in the Nation's Capital were yesterday.

Let us make unequal representation in the Congress of the United States

yesterday, make it history, for black, white, Hispanic and people of every background who live in the District of Columbia, who live in their Nation's Capital.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia. Her point is that history is still continuing, and in the African American history museum that I spoke about before, there probably should be a section for unfinished business.

□ 1515

One of the pieces of unfinished business certainly is the fate of the District of Columbia respective of full representation in the House and the Senate.

I would like to say that the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia had mentioned some individuals, and that is very much a part of the history that is ongoing, and I hope that there will never be a minimizing of the role that has been played by individuals like Shirley Chisholm, like Ossie Davis.

But more closer to home, today is the 80th birthday of Congressman Louis Stokes. Congressman Stokes was an outstanding Member of Congress serving on many different committees: the Select Committee on Intelligence, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, and the Committee on Appropriations. The kinds of things he got done while he was here are legendary, and I hope that history does not lose track of the achievements of Congressman Stokes.

A few days ago, at the ceremony for Shirley Chisholm, Congressman Ron Dellums was here. Ron Dellums is one of the most brilliant minds in America today still; but certainly when he was here, he had a chance to exhibit one of the most brilliant minds one would want to find on matters related to the military and international events. And Parren Mitchell also I hope will not get lost in history. These are people who served during the time that I have been a Member. Parren Mitchell from Maryland was a genius in the area of economic development. And he got started some things that continue and have been broadened to set aside for Federal contracts that started for minorities and was, of course, broadened to include women, and it continues.

So we do not want to lose track of the heroes who might inspire our young people. One of the great values of the African American history museum is that it will bring all of this together. We have a great problem with our young people in terms of them understanding what the history has been and understanding what the challenges are. And I think that to have physically located in one place these kinds of items, such as blacks in the military, and there will be a section related to what the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia was saying before, not just the role of blacks in World

War I and World War II, but it goes all the way back to the war of 1812 and the Revolutionary War. There have been very few wars that have been fought where a major role was not played by African Americans.

So the stream of history, we want to make certain that that is properly handled; and then the mosaics, the little pieces, the individuals who made history should be a part of that in the proper places, and some of these heroes that I have just mentioned certainly should not get lost. The record and the inspiration and the achievements of Louis Stokes, Parren Mitchell, and Ron Dellums should live on forever.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for his vigilance and for sponsoring this Special Order. I also thank him for his constant work and hard work with regard to education, fully understanding that as we celebrate Black History Month that a people cannot rise unless that people is educated. So I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) very much for all that he does every day.

Mr. Speaker, those who have no record of what their forebearers have accomplished lose the inspiration that comes from history. These wise words were spoken by the Father of Black History, Carter G. Woodson. In 1926 he initiated Negro History Week, a week-long celebration of African American cultural heritage. Woodson knew that self-respect sprang from self-knowledge. He knew that an awareness of our history was crucial to our dignity and essential in our fight for equal rights in this country.

Carter G. Woodson also knew, as we know, that African American history is American history. African American history and American history is the sound of slaves invoking the Declaration of Independence. It is Sojourner Truth fighting for all of her sisters as she demanded, "Ain't I a woman?" It is the sorrow of spirituals and the joy of jazz. It is the horror of crosses crackling aflame in moonlight, of strange fruit dangling from treetops, of poverty and, yes, of pain.

And it is the bravery of freedom fighters desegregating buses, lunch counters, and schools. Mr. Speaker, African American history is the diverse tapestry of people who compose this Congress.

Carter G. Woodson would be proud to see that Negro History Week has blossomed into a month of events celebrating the giants of African American arts, letters, science, sports, and politics. He would delight in the flurry of assemblies in schools that showcase the inspirational stories of Frederick Douglass and Rosa Parks, both of whose birthdays fall in the month of February.

But Carter G. Woodson would be saddened that this flurry of attention to black history peters out as the snows

of February melt out into the warmer days of March. He would realize, Mr. Speaker, that we still have a battle to wage and we are not stopping at February.

We will fight for education funding, for Social Security, and for health parity between blacks and whites. We will not accept that the mortality rate for African Americans is 30 percent higher than for whites. We will not accept that homicide is the leading cause of death of black men. We will not accept that 21 percent of African Americans are without health insurance, and we simply will not accept that changing Social Security is a solution to these fundamental inequities.

President Bush has declared the theme of this year's Black History Month to be the Niagara Movement. This movement, led by W.E.B. Du Bois, called for civil rights and civil liberties for all. In DuBois's "Address to the Nation" at Harper's Ferry in 1906, he said: "We will not be satisfied to take one jot or tittle less than our full manhood rights. We claim for ourselves every single right that belongs to a free-born American, political, civil, and social; and until we get these rights, we will never cease to protest and assail the ears of America. The battle we wage is not for ourselves alone, but for all true Americans."

It is in this spirit that I say, let us use this Black History Month as a springboard to call for equality for all Americans all year-round. Let us look to the leadership of Woodson and DuBois as we fight for all who toil and suffer among us.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close with the words of a great man to whom we reluctantly bid farewell this Black History Month. In an interview last year, Ossie Davis said, "We can't float through life. We can't be incidental or accidental. We must fix our gaze on a guiding star as soon as one comes up on the horizon. And once we have attached ourselves to that star, we must keep our eyes on it and our hands on the plow."

Mr. Speaker, let us not be incidental or accidental. Let Ossie Davis be our guiding star as we pledge to keep our hands on the plow and fight for equality every day of the year.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) for yielding, and I would like to associate myself with some of the comments that both he and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) have made relative to the import and the importance of African American History Month.

I would certainly agree that all of those who have lived and who have come to this country have become a part of making America the great Nation that it indeed is. Oftentimes, when

we think of black history, I grew up in an era where I was taught to read by unlocking words and, to an extent, we were taught that history meant his story, and lots of people think of history as meaning his or her story. I have been challenging young people throughout my district and every place that I have gone to view black history not so much in the context of history, but in terms of "mystery," meaning that it becomes my story. And each one of us has a story that we can write or a story that we can tell.

I spent part of Monday, I say to the gentleman from New York, with 10 kindergartners in a school, and they were watching "Roots" as I came into the classroom. And before we ended the day, each one of them had decided that they were going to be an integral part of making black history and that they were going to look back to understand where they came from so that they would have a better understanding of how they got to where they are, and they would have a greater awareness and appreciation of where they ought to be going.

So I want to commend the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Maryland for helping to bring alive the historical development of African Americans in this country so that all of us know that we continue to move forward even as we look back. I thank the gentleman for this opportunity.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by saying that this year, the year 2005, is a landmark year for the observance of African American history in that there will be an African American museum launched here on the Mall during this year. The money has been appropriated for the planning. There is a distinguished board of Americans who are going to go forward with this, including Oprah Winfrey, Ken Chenault of American Express, Tony Welters of AmeriChoice, and a whole group of business people and academics who will oversee the beginning of this process. I would like to call upon all celebrities out there who have money, because part of the arrangement is that the government will pay for one-half of it, and the other half has to be raised in private contributions. So I call on all of the celebrities and the stars and the athletes to come forward and let us make certain that this great project does not falter at all as a result of not having the private funds to match the government funds.

It is a great day in the observance of African American history, a long haul from the day when Carter G. Woodson asked for a 1-day observance and could not get it, and then it finally became a week and a month. We want a museum that brings it all together right here in Washington to make sure that our children and the children of all Americans, not just African American descendants but all Americans, understand the role and the contribution of African Americans to the history of this great Nation.

MOURNING THE LOSS AND CELEBRATING THE LIVES OF THREE PROMINENT CHICAGO CITIZENS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for giving me the opportunity to make these comments prior to the hour that she will be using on behalf of the majority.

Mr. Speaker, this week, residents of Chicago lost three of its most prominent citizens. Earlier today, the funeral was held for a blues singer, a fellow named Tyrone Davis, who has had great popular songs such as "Mom's Apple Pie" and "Turn Back the Hands of Time." Tyrone grew up in Mississippi, rural Mississippi, as a matter of fact, not far from Greenville. He came to Chicago and ultimately became one of the top recording artists in the country. He also happens to be a resident of the neighborhood that I come from. He came and lived on the west side of the city of Chicago and interacted in the night clubs and blues joints before he rose to the top.

□ 1530

And so I simply want to express condolences to the wife and family of Tyrone Davis, great blues singer. We also lost this week attorney Earl Neal, one of the most accomplished lawyers that the country has ever seen.

Earl distinguished himself as a great attorney, great trial lawyer, but also was actively engaged and involved in civics and community affairs, chairman of the board of trustees of the University of Illinois, his alma mater; chairman of the University of Illinois Alumni Association; and also chairman of the Urban Health Program, where, through his efforts, the University of Illinois trained more African American physicians and dentists than any college or university in the Nation, with the exception of Howard and Meharry.

And so certainly we want to extol our condolences to Earl's wife, Isabella, his son, attorney Langdon Neal, and other members of his family.

And finally Milton Davis, who was chairman of Shorebank, little group of people got together, started a bank, they called it south Shorebank. It emerged as the number-one community lending institution in the Nation. Right now its assets are more than a billion dollars, and Milton Davis and I collaborated, and he put a bank in the neighborhood where I lived, called the Austin branch of Shorebank.

So I simply want to express condolences to his wife and family, and all of those who are associated with Shorebank, one of the top community lending institutions in the Nation, on the life and legacy of Milton Davis, its former president and chairman.

Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to commend the life and work of one of America's

most skilled, most effective and most influential lawyers, Attorney Earl Neal. Over the years, I have often heard Earl Neal referred to as a lawyer's lawyer or as the city's expert on may issues, no matter who the mayor or city's management might have been composed of. I have been involved in court cases and litigation where I was on one side and Earl was on the other. In each instance, although we were (in fact adversaries) I always found myself wishing that we were on the same side. There were instances where we were on the same side of issues and I always had the highest level of assurance that were being represented as well as humanely possible.

In addition to being an outstanding lawyer, Earl and his wife Isabella were prominent civic and social leaders in the State of Illinois. He was intimately associated with his alma mater, the University of Illinois serving on the Board of Trustees, President of the Alumni Association and Chairman of the Urban Health Advisory Council which resulted in the University of Illinois training more African American physicians and dentists than any medical school in the USA with the exception of Howard and Meharry.

To Mrs. Neal and Attorney Langdon Neal and other members of the family, you have the heartfelt condolences of myself, my wife, Vera and our entire family. Earl has been as Harold Washington would say, "fruit of the loom, best of the breed, in a class by himself."

STOPPING WASTE, FRAUD AND ABUSE IN GOVERNMENT SPENDING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise with my colleagues today to highlight the important role this Congress must play in rooting out waste, fraud and abuse in government spending. The Federal Government currently spends over \$69,000 every second of every day. That astonishing figure is simply too high. This Congress must become a better steward of the taxpayers' dollars and we must do it now.

Our constituents deserve to send less of their hard-earned dollars to Washington and have more of their money to spend on their families, businesses and dreams. They meticulously budget their dollars at their kitchen tables and we owe it to them to do the same here in Washington.

Mr. Speaker, in order to do this, we must crack down on waste, fraud and abuse in government spending. We are going to have others of our party speak.

And now I would like to yield the floor to my esteemed colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY).

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for yielding. I appreciate the esteemed remark. I am not sure what that means, but I will take it as a compliment. Thank you very much.